

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05290 132102Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W  
-----140535Z 059767 /12

R 131203Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2678  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, IN  
SUBJ: BIO DATA ON SHANTI BHUSHAN, MINISTER OF LAW,  
JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS

1. A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, BHUSHAN IS THE ONLY "NON-POLITICIAN" IN THE CABINET, SINCE HE HAS NEVER BEEN ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE. SINCE HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF EITHER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, HE MUST SECURE A SEAT WITHIN SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO REMAIN A GOI MINISTER. BHUSHAN COMES FROM A RENOWNED FAMILY OF LAWYERS IN ALLAHABAD (U.P.) BORN IN 1925, HE MAJORED IN SCIENCE AND LATER RECEIVED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY. HE BEGAN PRACTICING LAW WITH HIS FATHER AND EVENTUALLY BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH  
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C.B. GUPTA, CONGRESS PARTY CHIEF IN U.P. AND CHIEF MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE LATE 1960'S. THROUGH GUPTA'S INFLUENCE, BHUSHAN WAS APPOINTED ADVOCATE-GENERAL OF U.P. IN 1969, THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO HOLD THE POSITION.

2. BHUSHAN ROSE TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE IN 1974 WHEN

HE SERVED AS COUNSEL FOR RAJ NARAIN IN THE ALLAHABAD COURT CASE WHICH ULTIMATELY RESULTED IN MRS GANDHI'S 1971 ELECTION TO THE LOK SABHA BEING SET ASIDE BECAUSE OF CORRUPT CAMPAIGN PRACTICES. HE ALSO ARGUED FOR RAJ NARAIN WHEN MRS GANDHI APPEALED THE DECISION TO THE SUPREME COURT IN 1975. BHUSHAN'S INTEREST IN POLITICS WAS PROBABLY FURTHER ENHANCED WHEN HE SERVED AS ONE OF THE MAIN COUNSELS IN THE HABEAS CORPUS CASE IN THE SUPREME COURT, WHERE HE ARGUED ON BEHALF OF MISA DETAINEES THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE GROUNDS FOR THEIR DETENTION.

3. BHUSTAN WAS NOT ARRESTED DURING THE EMERGENCY BUT WAS ACTIVE IN THE MOVEMENT TO OPPOSE THE 42ND CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL. HE IS A STRONG BELIEVER IN JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY. A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS (O), HE BECAME TREASURER OF THE JANATA PARTY AT ITS FORMATION.  
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** BIO DATA ON SHANTI BHUSHAN, MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINR, IN, (BHUSHAN, SHANTI)  
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